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10th birthday**

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HAMPSHIRE**

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Thursday, April 10 - Wednesday, April 16, 2014

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Basingstoke MP will continue to represent town

MILLER RESIGNS FROM CABINET

MARIA Miller announced her resignation as culture secretary on Wednesday after coming under pressure from politicians and the press to step down following allegations regarding her expenses.

But she is expected to stay on as the Member for Basingstoke, despite calls from some local politicians for her to resign from that position as well.

It comes after a report by parliamentary standards commissioner Kathryn Hudson.

The report stated that Ms Miller had over-claimed by £45,000 for expenses towards mortgage payments for her London home.

However, the Commons Standards Committee voted that she need only pay back £5,800.

The committee also said that Ms Miller should apologise to the House of Commons for the matter, which she did last Wednesday.

And despite initially claiming she would not be resigning from her cabinet post, Ms Miller wrote to the Prime Minister yesterday morning to inform him of her decision.

In the letter, she wrote: "It is with great regret that I have decided that I should tender my resignation as a member of the Cabinet."

"It has become clear to me that the present situation has become a distraction from the vital work this government is doing to turn

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

our country around.

"Ensuring the best future for the people of Basingstoke has been my priority throughout the last nine years.

"Whether on the front or back benches of the House of Commons, I will continue this work."

Cllr Paul Harvey, Labour's parliamentary candidate for Basingstoke for next year's general elections, said that Ms Miller had "lost the confidence of the people of Basingstoke".

He said: "I've been door-knocking and talking to people, and there's an awful lot of anger, and a lot of people feeling that Maria Miller has done wrong."

Cllr Harvey, also a borough councillor for Norden, added that he believes Ms Miller should resign as the area's MP as well.

He continued: "There was anticipation and concern of [this issue] before the announcement was made last Thursday, and since then there has been a growing level of anger."

A statement released by the Hampshire Conservative Federation read: "Maria Miller has always delivered for the people of Basingstoke. She is an outstanding MP and has our full support."



• Maria Miller had been secretary of state for culture, media and sport since September 2012

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£150k funding for popular pool

TADLEY Swimming Pool has been awarded £150,000 of National Lottery funding from Sport England's Improvement Fund, to help pay for the refurbishment of changing rooms.

Basingstoke and Deane Community Leisure Trust announced the funding on Tuesday, which will be used for improvements including high efficiency toilets and showers, LED lighting and easy access.

It is hoped that the changes will reduce water usage and energy spending, and will contribute to

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

the borough council's climate change strategy.

Cllr Robert Donnell, cabinet member for environment and climate change, said: "The council is committed to encouraging and supporting residents, groups and businesses to reduce their carbon emissions by 15 per cent by 2017.

"This grant is a terrific result of partnership working to prepare and plan for the impacts of climate change.

"It will also make Tadley Pool a more modern and pleasant local

amenity for its many users."

News of the grant comes as the leisure trust reported a three per cent increase in customers at Tadley Swimming Pool since the New Year, compared to 2013.

Combined footfall for Tadley Pool and the Basingstoke Aquadrome is now estimated to be in excess of 1.1million visitors annually.

Hazel Tilbury, chair of the leisure trust, said: "Over the last three years, we have seen a steady increase in the number of visitors coming through the doors of our leisure facilities.

"We think this is partly due to wider economic recovery, but also due to the decision of local residents to spend their money

on their health at good value for money, affordable facilities.

"The funding received by Sport England for Tadley Swimming Pool is just one example of our commitment to continuously improving the facilities and services we offer to our customers."

Charles Johnston, property director at Sport England, added: "We know people have a better experience of sport when they have good facilities in which to play.

"This investment will ensure the people of Basingstoke and Deane will be able to develop a sporting habit for life in a first-class, environmentally friendly sports facility."

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Charity celebrates 10th birthday with art exhibition

BASINGSTOKE-BASED charity Sebastian's Action Trust launched its first art exhibition last Saturday, with Mayor Cllr Dan Putty attending the opening.

It was organised as part of the Trust's 10th anniversary celebrations, and features canvases painted by the children and families that are supported by the charity.

Artworks created by groups of children who have attended art therapy sessions are also on display, with all of them depicting what the Trust means to families.

Jane Gates, CEO of Sebastian's Action Trust, said: "This is a wonderful collection of beautiful art.

"We are very excited about our 10-year anniversary and this collection shows just how important the Trust has become to so many families with children who have life-limiting or serious illness."

The exhibition is being staged on the second floor of The Willis Museum, and is free to look around from 10am to 4pm until May 5.

• Cllr Dan Putty opens Sebastian's Action Trust's art exhibition



Free parking for half an hour in town

SHOPPERS and visitors to Basingstoke will be able to park for free for up to 30 minutes in council-owned car parks from Monday.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Albert Yard, Castons Yard, Feathers Yard, Jacobs Yard, Joices Yard and Central car parks will all feature the new scheme.

It aims to help traders by attracting more people to the area, and to make it easier for customers to use local businesses.

Council-owned car parks in Overton, Kingsclere, Bramley and Whitchurch already offer free parking.

Cllr Cathy Osselton, cabinet member responsible for parking, said: "I hope this will encourage people, who may have been put off by the cost of short-term parking in the past, to support their local shops and businesses."

Pay-and-display tickets will still be required for over half-an-hour's parking, and will be monitored by attendants. For more details of the scheme, go to www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/parkfree.

Easter fun in Basingstoke

CHILDREN in Basingstoke can take part in an Easter trail around the Top of the Town from Saturday, with chocolate treats on offer to those who can complete it.

The trail starts at The Willis Museum, and participants will be taken on a tour looking for hidden letters in shops and businesses in order to solve an Easter-themed anagram.

It has been organised by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, and aims to raise awareness of what the area has to offer, as well as keeping youngsters entertained during the holidays.

Cllr Ranil Jayawardena, deputy leader of the council, said: "The event will encourage more people to discover and explore the area, helping to support local businesses now and in the future."

It will be running until Sunday, April 20, and free Easter trail sheets can be picked up from The Willis Museum.



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Kempshott
Basingstoke Rugby Club
Pack Lane
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Jane 07711 422380

Tadley
Ambrose Allen Centre,
Franklin Avenue
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Emma 077950 65042

Oakridge Village
Oakridge Hall for All
Forsythia Walk
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Liz 07771 346702

TUESDAY

Hook
Elizabeth Hall
Raven Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Jo 07515 719190

Winkiebury
Fort Hill Community School
Kenilworth Road
7.30pm
Tel: Tina 07810 147400

South Ham
Westside Community Centre
Paddock Road
7.30pm
Tel: Kirsty 07843 276953

Overton
St Luke's Hall, Winchester Street
7.30pm
Tel: Lynn 07885 765341

Bramley
Bramley Village hall, The Street
7.30pm
Tel: Kate 07853 989168

WEDNESDAY

Kingsclere
Fieldgate Centre, Field Gate Drive
7.30pm
Tel: Lynn 07885 765341

Brighton Hill
Viabes Craft Ctr, The Barn
The Harrow Way
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Carol 07976 701459

Tadley
Ambrose Allen Centre,
Franklin Avenue
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Emma 07795 065042

Popley
Melrose Hall, Abbey Road
9.30am
Tel: Hazel 07796 158098
"Kids Corner - Children Welcome"

Popley
Melrose Hall, Abbey Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
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THURSDAY

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Cafe Dome
Sullivan Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Kaleigh 07788 257889

Chineham
Christ Church
Reading Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
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Councillor quits amid home residency row

A BASINGSTOKE and Deane Borough Councillor who resigned earlier this week has stated that it was not because of pressure from a rival councillor to step down.

Graham Round, Conservative councillor for Baughurst and Tadley North, announced he was stepping down on Monday.

The news came on the same day that UKIP councillor Stephen West, who represents Tadley Central, called for Mr Round's resignation as he wasn't convinced the former councillor

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

was living in the Tadley area.

Cllr West said: "It became a problem because obviously there are issues within Tadley that we councillors have been put, and Graham is conspicuous by his absence."

"He has been incredibly coy about where he lives, he doesn't have a local phone number, and he uses the house he owns in

Baughurst just as his mailing address.

"The people of Tadley North and Baughurst deserve to be represented by a local councillor, and not a remote e-councillor on a mobile phone."

But Mr Round, who is stepping down from the council because of increased work commitments, rubbished Cllr West's claims, stating he had decided to resign before Monday morning.

Mr Round added: "I had certainly told people within my group that I would be resigning

before then.

"I'm doing so much travelling that it was difficult to balance the diary with overseas trips and council meetings, and I had been a bit lax on being able to attend meetings of late."

"But I was doing my ward work 100 per cent, and people in my ward knew that I worked near Bristol and how to get hold of me."

"I don't know if Stephen was stalking us but he was coming up with stories that we lived in Christian Malford, and yes I did

have an interest in a property there, as I have with properties in Basingstoke and in Ireland."

"When I was elected in 2011 I lived in The Hawthorns, Baughurst, and that's where I live today."

An announcement was also made on Monday that Labour councillor for Brighton Hill South David Eyre had stood down.

A notice of vacancy has been issued for both seats, with an election to be held within 35 working days of Monday's announcement.

Man robbed at knifepoint over just £5

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a 57-year-old was threatened with a knife in Basingstoke at the end of last month.

He was walking along Basing View and over the railway bridge into Norn Hill between 10.45pm and 11.05pm on March 31, when he was approached by a man brandishing a knife, who demanded cash.

The victim handed over the money which he had, a little over £5, and the suspect and another man ran off.

Both were described as white and in their late teens. The first was about 5ft 11ins tall with broad shoulders, and his face was covered with a scarf.

He was also wearing a black puffy coat with the hood up and a cap underneath.

The second man was a bit younger than the other, and was of a skinny build.

Since the incident, police have been carrying out extra patrols in the area, and have been offering reassurance to local residents.

Anyone with information about the robbery is asked to call Detective Constable Andy Panter at Basingstoke police station on the non-emergency number 101.

Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Celebrations as job club begins life at new home

A BASINGSTOKE job club celebrated its third birthday last Friday, after its success led to it moving to a new home at

Carnival Hall.

The M3 Job Club was set up to support people getting back to work and puts them in touch

with businesses that require their skills and experience.

It has so far helped 250 people return to work, and with ses-

sions now attracting more than 35 people a week, Carnival Hall was chosen as a more suitable location earlier this year.

Richard Thayer, the club's founder and chairman, said: "The motives for setting up the M3 Job Club were my personal experiences of redundancy."

"I also needed the motivation and a reason to get up in the morning, whilst giving something back to the community."

"The Job Club con-

nects employees and employers in a creative and positive way."

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council leader Clive Saunders added: "This club has helped so many people back into work so it's only right that we are supporting them by organising their new bigger place to meet."

It runs every Friday morning from 9am to 12.30pm. For more details, go to www.m3jobclub.co.uk.

• Richard Thayer (front centre) celebrates with M3 Job Club members at Carnival Hall



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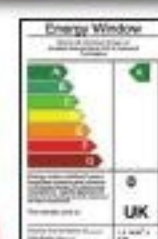
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Rural crime crackdown for Specials weekend

THE work of 566 Special Constables across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight has been celebrated as part of National Specials Weekend.

Between Friday and Sunday, special constables staged a number of operations across the county to highlight the type of work they do in policing local areas.

In North Hampshire, officers mounted an operation to tackle rural crime, and were out on foot, bicycles and vehicle patrols in villages in the area.

They targeted thefts from cars while carrying out the patrols, as well as providing a visible presence on the streets.

Chief superintendent Dave Powell, force lead for the Special Constabulary, said: "Our Special Constables provide a vital support service for their local policing teams and, more importantly, their communities."

"We have a huge range of expertise as part of our Special Constabulary, from teachers to stay at home mothers and retired businessmen and women, who all have something different to bring to policing."

"I would like to thank them

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

for giving up their free time and then putting on their uniform and helping to make the streets of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight safer."

Chief specials officer Phil Keeling said: "All of these officers, no matter what duty they were engaged in, were doing so in their own free time between their work and family lives."

"For this I am truly grateful and proud of the time and effort they all put in to making their communities safer."

Hampshire police and crime commissioner Simon Hayes added: "I highly commend those who give up their time to volunteer as specials for Hampshire Constabulary."

"They are very important members of our extended police family and bring valuable knowledge and experience from their different backgrounds."

"The Special Constabulary makes an important contribution to protecting people and places across Hampshire."



Hats on! Workers raise money for charity

STAFF at Basingstoke Audi have helped to raise a total of £765 for Brain Tumour Research following the charity's annual Wear A Hat Day.

Colborne Garages, who own the Basingstoke Audi branch, took part in the event at each of their dealerships in Hampshire, Hertfordshire and Surrey.

They were inspired by their colleague Jade Tyler's father Colin, who died of a brain tumour in 2011 after Jade's grandmother had also passed away with the same disease.

Rachael Lacy, group marketing assistant at Colborne Garages, said: "There was plenty of competition amongst us all on Wear A Hat Day to be dressed in the best hat."

"We had fun and at the same time felt we were supporting a very worthy cause."

"I am proud to say that the Colbornes Group raised £765.01 in donations for research into brain tumours, and we are already looking forward to supporting Wear A Hat Day 2015."

Sue Farrington Smith, chief

executive of Brain Tumour Research, added: "We are so grateful to everyone who has supported our Wear A Hat Day and, in particular, to Rachael for organising the event at Colborne Garages."

"Their donations will help fund research into an often overlooked form of cancer, which kills more children and adults under the age of 40 than any other."

• Basingstoke Audi celebrate Wear A Hat Day

Appeal for volunteers to care for cats

NATIONAL charity Cats Protection's Basingstoke and District Branch is looking for people to look after unwanted and abandoned cats while they are waiting to find a new owner.

The branch is appealing for volunteers to come forward to look after one or more cats on a short-term basis, until a new home for them is found.

Branch coordinator Hilary Wells said: "Cat fosterers play a vital role in our charity by caring for cats in their own home until a new owner can be found."

"No special equipment is needed but cat fosterers do need to have either a spare room or an area in their garden where a cat pen can be housed."

"Of course, a love of cats and a good working knowledge of cat welfare is a must."

"Offering a temporary home to a cat in need can be an incredibly rewarding experience, and becoming a volunteer for Cats Protection is a great way to meet new friends – both human and feline!"

The charity has 260 volunteer-run branches and 30 adoption centres nationwide, who help look after more than 235,000 cats every year.

Anyone interested in becoming a cat fosterer should contact the branch on 0845 177 1364, or by emailing basingstoke-cats@hotmail.co.uk.



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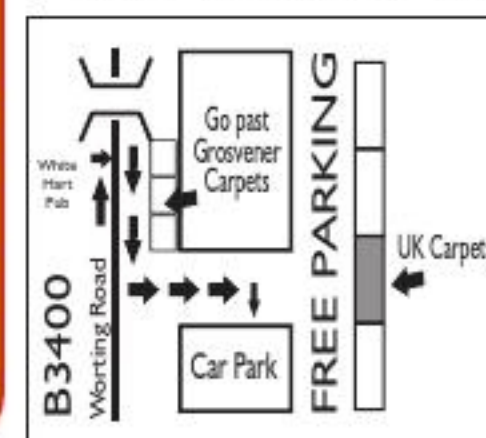


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Cost of floods becomes clear

HAMPSHIRE County Council will have spent £68.5million on its response and recovery operation following this winter's floods, the authority said last week.

Long-term costs to repair damaged roads at over 300 locations across the county, as well as flood and coastal defence works, are estimated to cost around £63million.

This is on top of the £5million already spent in the immediate aftermath of the floods on sandbags and clean-up costs.

And it is anticipated that the council will make a claim to government for between £3.5million and £4.5million, added to an £11.5million grant already received for highways maintenance.

Council leader Roy Perry said: "Getting £11.5million is a really helpful first step from government and we'll be bidding for more resources,

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

bearing in mind we estimate that another £25million is needed to fix damaged roads alone.

"We are committed to continuing to fund an enhanced maintenance programme to improve the resilience of our 5,000 miles of roads.

"I am conscious also that a lot of businesses in Hampshire have suffered and we have been exploring what help there is available in that respect, as well as for individual householders.

"We will certainly be making that advice available.

"What's difficult to capture, in monetary terms, is the amount of effort put in by frontline staff from all agencies and those who went

above and beyond their roles to respond to the emergencies.

"In recognition of those efforts, the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire Dame Mary Fagan and I will be hosting an event after Easter.

"We also intend to find an appropriate way to express the county's thanks to the volunteers who were the 'saints and saviours' of flooding within Hampshire and played a tremendous part in supporting their neighbours."

Around 1,000 fallen trees have been removed from roads in recent months, and more than 70,000 sandbags were used across Hampshire.

One hundred council staff and 200 contractors were on deployment around the clock, with highway staff spending a combined total of 13,127 hours on responding to and dealing with the aftermath.

Hotel's clean-up continues



STAFF at Tylney Hall Hotel, near Hook, have been busy restoring the site's gardens to their former glory over the past couple of months, after it was badly affected by the winter weather.

Thirty trees in the hall's 66 acre grounds, including ancient Redwoods, were lost after winds of up to 80mph battered the area.

Estate manager Paul Tattersdill and his team of four gardening staff have been carrying out the clean-up operation, with the fallen trees being cut and cleared away.

So far 23 of the 30 trees have been cleared, alongside the gardeners' usual daily tasks and upkeep of the hotel's gardens.

Mark Robinson, general manager at Tylney Hall Hotel, said: "It has been a very tough winter for Paul and his team.

"They have been working around the clock, often in difficult conditions, to keep Tylney Hall's gardens looking as beautiful as ever so our guests can continue to enjoy the natural surroundings we are renowned for.

"It is difficult to sum up exactly how physically challenging and huge a job of this nature can be, and it is testament to Paul and his team's passion that they have managed to clear so many trees so quickly."

• Gardeners working at Tylney Hall Hotel

News Bites

Charity golf

GOLFERS can join former England cricketer Shaun Udal for a round at Sandford Springs Golf Course in Kingsclere on June 13, to raise money for Winchester-based charity Brendoncare.

It costs £250 for a team of four to take part in 18 holes, as well as receiving a two-course carvery lunch, entertainment and prizes for the winners.

For more information or to register a team, visit the charity's website www.brendoncare.org.uk or call 01962 852133.

Popley Islands

THE regeneration of Basingstoke's Popley Islands estate has been named in the top-five affordable housing developments by industry experts Inside Housing. It was announced last Friday.

Around £34million is being spent by developers Sentinel on Popley Islands, which will feature over 200 homes on the site.

Sentinel's development and regeneration director Mike Shepherd said: "We're delighted that this has been recognised as a top-five scheme."

Experts needed

AGE Concern Hampshire is appealing for computer whizzes in Basingstoke to help with one-to-one tuition sessions being held at Chineham Library for older people.

The sessions take place on Wednesday mornings, and offers tuition from experts on how to get the most from computers, laptops, phones and tablets.

Anyone who is interested in helping should contact Clive Lubert of Age Concern Hampshire on 0800 328 7154.



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Funds on the way for Odiham good causes

A PRIMARY school and online directory in Odiham could be set to benefit from £5,000 of funding, donated by a Southern Co-operative community support scheme.

Buryfields Infant School and inOdiham are hoping to receive £2,500 each.

However, it will depend on the success of Odiham's Community Support Card (CSC) scheme over the next year.

Customers can apply for the free card, which will be swiped every time they shop in Co-operative stores.

The more times the cards are swiped, the more money will be raised and the good causes will be given their funding quicker.

Francis Howard, chair of inOdiham, said: "CSC funds will enable everyone to enjoy a more beautiful Odiham."

"As part of inOdiham's ongoing plans to put flowers and plants in abundance in public spaces, the money will help provide more planters in the High Street, and bulbs for mass planting on roadside and path verges."

"Since everyone will share the benefit, we hope that everyone will support us by using their community card whenever they shop at the Southern Co-operative store in the High Street."

Louise Hancock, treasurer of Buryfields Infant School

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

PTA, said: "It's great to have this support from the Southern Co-operative, which will make a significant difference to the school."

"The PTA is currently working hard to raise funds to contribute to the development of the external grounds of the school."

"With these enhanced facilities we hope to continue to grow confidence in our children, as well as provide learning opportunities in a fun, stimulating and creative environment."

"It's a real community school and we benefit from lots of local support, so I really hope everyone will get behind this scheme to reach our £2,500 goal."

Southern Co-operative's retail business manager Gurt Combrink added: "We rely on customer support for our CSC scheme to succeed, but it doesn't cost them a penny."

"These are great local causes that the Southern Co-operative is pleased to be able to support, and which will directly help the local area."

"Our panel of members was unanimous in their support for both the school and inOdiham."

Milestone mission for the air ambulance

HAMPSHIRE and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance (HIOWAA) has completed its 5,000th mission, as they flew to the aid of an elderly man last Thursday.

Crew members marked the occasion with a gathering in Southampton, having reached the milestone number after starting missions on July 1, 2007.

The achievement coincides with the appointment of Dr David Sutton, who takes up the newly created role of clinical governance lead.

HIOWAA patron Alisa Montagu said: "I have seen outstanding progress within such a young charity, and this milestone is another remarkable achievement."

"I am very proud to be patron of such a talented and dedicated team of professionals who provide this life-saving service to the people of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight."

Dr Sutton added: "Having flown with HIOWAA as a flight doctor since the early days of 2008, I am delighted to have been offered the new post of clinical governance lead."

"This is a unique opportunity to build on our experience over 5,000 missions, and work alongside my medical, paramedic, pilot and charity colleagues to continue the development of our life-saving service."

"It is simply a privilege to be involved."

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance undertook its 5,000th mission last week.



Police hope alcohol duty change will cut crime

NEW legislation that saw government banning the sale of alcohol below the cost of duty plus VAT has been welcomed by Hampshire Constabulary.

It was introduced nationwide last Sunday, and prevents businesses from selling alcohol at heavily discounted prices in a bid to reduce excessive consumption, associated health issues and related crime.

Businesses must ensure that prices are accurate on shelves, barcodes, menus and price lists, and the legislation will supersede prices printed onto products.

Supt Stuart Murray said: "We welcome this new legislation and the impact we anticipate that it will have on crime figures across the force area."

"Issues like anti-social behaviour and underage drinking are a big concern for communities across Hampshire, and this new pricing structure for alcohol will help to address some of them at the point of sale."

"We will be active in enforcing the legislation across the force area and will be actively engaging with licensees and partner agencies to ensure that it is adhered to."

Businesses will be able to continue selling bulk items of alcohol, but each will need to be sold above the aggregate of the permitted price of each product in it.

Legislation will be enforced by local authorities, Trading Standards and the police.

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Help needed for charity's Big Collection

A NATIONAL charity is appealing for a volunteer in Basingstoke and Hook to help coordinate a collection weekend at their local branch of Tesco.

Diabetes UK is recruiting 300 team leader volunteers across the UK, and is looking for someone to help with their efforts in North Hampshire.

The Big Collection weekend is scheduled to take place in Tesco stores between June 13 and 15, with the aim of raising hundreds of thousands of pounds to help those suffering with diabetes in the UK.

Volunteers will help organise the Big Collection by working with Diabetes UK staff at their South East regional office and the Basingstoke and Hook branches of Tesco.

They will also be tasked with motivating a team of collection volunteers.

Jill Steaton, Diabetes UK regional manager for the South East, said: "We are proud that nine out of 10 people who volunteered last year said they would again, which means they must have enjoyed it."

"We are looking for a motivated, approachable and organised team leader volunteer with a desire to help raise lots of money for a fantastic cause."

"The weekend takes place at the end of Diabetes Week, and it is a great way to inform customers about diabetes while raising money for the charity."

"We look forward to another fun weekend at the next collection in June."

Youngsters get a music adventure

YOUNG patients at a Basingstoke care home were treated to an afternoon of music last week, as part of a national programme run by arts charity Create.

Children and teenagers at the Firvale Respite Unit, who suffer from severe learning difficulties, were treated to the charity's interactive show ArtsAdventures, designed to enhance the

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

patients' quality of life.

Youngsters joined in using different instruments, creating original sounds and melodies as well as recreating famous tunes.

As well as taking place at Firvale, the programme was also recently staged in Berkshire and Oxfordshire at nine different hospitals, hospices and respite centres.

Nicky Goulder, Create's co-founder and chief executive, said: "I am delighted that we have been able to take ArtsAdventures to these hospices, hospitals and beyond."

"ArtsAdventures enables the children to explore their creativity and grow in self-confidence, as well as distracting them from their illnesses and disabilities."

"We want them to be able to have fun together at a difficult time in their life."

"It is our huge privilege to be able to give them this opportunity."

As well as helping the young patients, ArtsAdventures was also designed to help their families, as well as centre staff who look after them, and were invited to join in.



• Youngsters take part in ArtsAdventures to help provide them with therapy

News Bites

Dulux dog in town

WICKES in Basingstoke was host to a special guest yesterday.

The Dulux dog made a special appearance at the store, to celebrate the launch of the company's paint mixing in Basingstoke, where children were able to have their photographs taken with the iconic mascot.

Morris dancing

THE Hook Eagle Morris will be commemorating St George's Day in Odiham later this month, with a selection of dances during the evening.

St George's Day marks the start of the Morris dancing season for Hook Eagle, who will be accompanied by the Borderline, Yateley, Jackstraws, Fleet, Basingclog and Mayflower Morris groups.

It starts at The Waterwitch pub in Odiham at 7.30pm. For more information, visit www.hookeagle.org.uk.

Are you a winner?

ST Michael's Hospice has announced the winners of its latest lottery draw from April 4.

First prize of £1,000 goes to ticket 95161 of Basingstoke, while ticket 53168, also of Basingstoke, claims second prize of £100.

Third prize of £50 goes to Hatch Warren ticket 61995, and Basingstoke ticket 88271 gets fourth prize of £20.

Sixteen prizes of £5 go to tickets 03455, 08331, 10113, 10635, 10811, 20684, 27429, 29948, 34946, 56327, 68763, 68864, 70217, 77946, 89914 and 95174.

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*Statistics obtained from The International Glaucoma Association.

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Gardening...? It's child's play!

When you start this summer's gardening why not recruit some little helpers?

IF THE weather is fine this Easter, (and it's beginning to look like it might be), many parents will be wanting to sort out their gardens - and hopefully encouraging their children to give them a hand along the way.

Certainly, with National Gardening Week (April 14-20) on its way too - a scheme launched three years ago by the RHS to celebrate gardening with nationwide events - there really is no excuse not to get your little ones outdoors.

Andrea Fowler, horticultural educator at RHS Garden Wisley, points out that attracting wildlife, seed-sowing and vegetable-

By Hannah Stephenson

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

growing are all sources of inspiration to young gardeners.

"Spring is definitely here so we can be seed-sowing and planting in earnest. If you just want to get the children outside do an Easter egg hunt in the garden - there are also Easter holiday activities at all four RHS gardens over the holidays.

"If you're sowing seeds with children, sow something that's going to spark their imagination. Plant flower seeds which children will be excited about, like

calendula - there's a calendula called 'Porcupine' which is an extra spiky pot marigold.

"If you're growing veg with children, have a go with 'Pink Fir Apple' potatoes (a main-crop variety with knobbly pink skinned tubers of butter yellow, waxy flesh) or purple potatoes, purple beans and yellow tomatoes, which will get them interested."

Attracting wildlife into the garden will also engage the children, so help them build a mini-beast hotel (although autumn can be a better time to do this when wildlife is looking to hibernate).

A simple bug hotel can be made from a collection of hollow stems packed into a plastic bottle with the end cut off. Several hotels could be placed in different positions such as on the ground among vegetation, fixed on top of a post, next to a wall, half way up a hedge, in a tree, under a bird table. Grander bug hotels can be made by piling up a variety of materials into a tower, or making a wooden frame with a series of compartments and packing these with different fillings.

Remember rotting wood is both a home and source of food

for various beetle grubs and a vast army of other mini-beasts, which in turn make a tasty snack for birds, hedgehogs and frogs, so leave an area of the garden wild and build a log pile with the children.

"Children also love worms. If you are working in the garden let them dig with a trowel and they'll love it."

You could also help your children make a bird cake, using fat, good quality wild birdseed, raisins, peanuts and grated cheese. Just leave the fat in a warm place to soften, put the other ingredients into a bowl, chop the fat into small pieces and add to the mixture, mixing it together using fingers or a spoon. Put the mixture into a yoghurt pot to hang from your bird table or roll into balls to place on it.

"We need to get the next generation inspired by gardening," Fowler says.

And there's no time like the present to do so.

• Getting kids interested in gardening helps them connect with nature. Photos: PA Photo/RHS.



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• Garry Christian returns to Basingstoke on Saturday (see overleaf)



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A night of jazz at the Phoenix

THE Esmond Clements Trio come to Bordon as part of the Phoenix Jazz series, coming to East Hampshire tomorrow evening.

Esmond is a well-respected jazz pianist who has performed for many years in the UK and Europe, and will be joined by trombone player Edwin Baker and veteran bass player Phil Berry.

It starts at 8pm at the Bordon Phoenix Theatre. Go to www.phoenixarts.co.uk or call 01420 472664 for more details.

Have a go at carving animals

CHILDREN and adults are being invited to carve creative creatures at the Basingstoke Discovery Centre, for a one-off workshop this weekend.

Professional fruit carvers Carving Magic will be teaching visitors how to carve a penguin from an aubergine, with plenty of other animals and fruits for creative visitors to have a go at making.

It costs £10 for the one-hour workshop from 10am. For more information, call 01256 478670 or go to www.hants.gov.uk/bsdc.

Boys are back in town!

POP rock and soul group The Christians make their second trip to Basingstoke inside six months, with a new show at The Haymarket on Saturday evening.

The band performed at the Anvil in November alongside fellow '80s groups Go West and Hue and Cry, but return

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk



with their own show featuring songs both new and old.

It comes as the group are busy

recording their sixth studio album, following on from the release of 'Speed of Life' in 2012.

"We don't want to bombard the audience with new tracks at this show, but we can sneak a couple in through the set," said lead singer Garry Christian.

"People like to hear the older ones, as they can reminisce and think 'ah, I remember that'."

"I always say to them before we do any of the tracks that this is a new song, so if you fancy a drink the bar's open! It normally goes down pretty well actually."

As well as new material, The Christians will be playing some of their well-known hits, including 'Forgotten Town', 'Harvest for the World' and 'Born Again'.

Garry is the only group member remaining from the original '80s line-up, and is now accompanied by lead guitarist Joey Ankrah, Neil Griffiths on acoustic guitar, Cliff Watson on bass, drummer Lionel Duke and keyboard player Mike Triggs in the band.

"At the moment we're working on the new album, and so far we've got about 18 tracks," Garry added.

"When we've got them to a certain level, we'll decide what 10 or 12 tracks we'll put on the album itself."

"But they're all sounding great so it's difficult to choose really. It's a good position to be in."

Saturday's show starts at 7.30pm, and tickets cost £21. For more information and to book, go to www.anvilarts.org.uk or call the box office on 01256 844244.



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The Anvil goes back in time

PREHISTORIC creatures are brought back to life at The Anvil on Tuesday and Wednesday, as Erth's Dinosaur Zoo lets audiences see the ancient reptiles up close.

The live show sees cute baby dinosaurs alongside teeth-gnashing giants, as well as the latest addition to the zoo, the Australovenator.

More details about the show can be found at www.anvilarts.org.uk, or call 01256 844244.

Al fresco eating and live music in Basingstoke

THE taste of international cuisine is coming to Basingstoke on Saturday, as the Top of the Town's most established restaurants open their doors and cook al fresco for Eat Street.

Cookery demonstrations, cupcake decorating and live music will all be on offer, as well as a children's Easter trail and fun with the Candy Floss Queens.

It runs from 11am to 3pm, and more information is available through the borough council website: www.basingstoke.gov.uk.



'A real musical challenge'

OVER 100 children aged between seven and 14 will bring their musical talent to The Anvil on Sunday afternoon, with the National Children's Orchestras (NCO) of Great Britain.

They will perform music by Tchaikovsky, Wagner and Dukas during their performance, as well as more contemporary pieces such as the score to Pirates of the Caribbean.

Children begin performing with the orchestra from a young age, and are chosen to play through extensive auditions that are held annually.

Sarah Derbyshire, managing direc-

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk



tor of the NCO, is looking forward to listening to the orchestra as they return to The Anvil this weekend.

She said: "We love going there, and I think particularly performing there on a Sunday afternoon seems to work well in the area."

"We've had good audiences there in the past, and we're very much looking forward to coming again."

What music the children perform at each individual orchestra is decided in advance on the basis of how strong the collective group are, and what level of pieces they would be able to tackle.

"That's really a decision made by our principal director of music, Roger Clarkson," Sarah added.

"He's always interested in presenting these young talented musicians with a real musical challenge, and also thinking about what their audiences are going to enjoy hearing."

"This concert has a family focus, because it's on a Sunday afternoon, so

that's been another consideration that Roger's had in mind when putting the programme together.

"These pieces will appeal to a broad age range, and he'll be doing some little introductions and this sort of thing during the afternoon, so people of all ages will find it an accessible programme."

The show starts at 3pm, and tickets start from £11.

For further details or to book tickets, visit The Anvil website www.anvilarts.org.uk or call the box office on 01256 844244.

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What's on in HAMPSHIRE

LISTINGS

Want even more?
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17 Mar 2014 - 28 Apr 2014, 12am - 11:59pm

Irish Centre, Council Road, Basingstoke

BISHOP CHALLONER CLASS OF 84, 30 YEAR REUNION

"Saturday 3 May 2014 From 7:30pm

RSVP Ally Streeter (Toner)" streeter662@btinternet.com

3 Apr 2014, 7:45pm

WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN

A celebration of the music of The Carpenters and the spirit of Karen Carpenter. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

4 Apr 2014, 7:45pm

TAP FACTORY

This amazing spectacular features a live percussion band and gorgeous male dancers to set your pulses racing. Tremendously visual and highly exciting, Tap Factory blends the art of percussion with dance and acrobatics in an eclectic mix of skill, poetry and humour. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

5 Apr 2014, 7:45pm

ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

"Beethoven's Seventh Symphony. The thrilling roller-coaster ride is made up of four movements which have a joyous energy and rhythmic impetus, generating enormous power. Followed by Schubert's epic 9th symphony, number nine. A supremely lyrical and imaginative work; the four movements are built on a grand scale and the musical architecture is handled with great care, yet the whole piece unfurls in one majestic sweep." 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

5 Apr 2014, 7:30pm - 11:45pm

BAND NIGHT WITH BERNIE WOODS & THE FOREST FIRES

plus DJ Stompin' Steve. Membership Drive, New Members Welcome. 7:30pm till 11:45pm 7904931161

6 Apr 2014, 10am - 3pm

GARAGE / BOOT SALE

Garage / Boot Sale - 9 Privett Close, Lychpit Jewellery, Collectibles, Bicycles, Good Quality Varied Household Items, Bargains Galore.

8 Apr 2014, 7:45pm

St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road (B3350), Earley Reading

BERKS GP OF HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

A talk by Hilary Newman on Climbers and wall plants.

www.berkshirehps.org.uk

8 Apr 2014, 8:15pm

RITA HOSKING

Rita sings original mountain roots music - soulful ballads and old time drive - with a voice that really grabs your attention, a kind of cross between the haunting delivery of Gillian Welch and the richness of Iris Dement. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

9 Apr 2014 - 9 Apr 2014, 11am - 4pm

UK WOLF CONSERVATION TRUST VISIT WEDNESDAY'S

"A wonderful day out for all the family, with photo opportunities, guided tour of Trust, watch the wolves being fed at 2pm and, of course, our ambassador wolves. Come to see our Arctic wolves, admire our Beenham pack and see our older wolves, including mischievous Mosi, majestic Mai and Motomo. We have a photography platform overlooking the Beenham pack and you'll be able to see the Torak & Mosi via a large picture window in our shop and education centre. Free parking is available and there are toilets on-site. Our well stocked shop will be open for you to purchase souvenirs of your day. There will be tea/ coffee, squash refreshments available to purchase by donation, but no food. Outdoor picnic tables available. No walks or wolf contact is available on this day. Additional children's activities will be held during school holidays. Adults £8, Children 3-12 £5, under 3's free. Please note: no dogs are allowed on-site or to be left in parked cars. 0118 971 3330 www.ukwolf.org

11 Apr 2014, 11:30am

MARTY MACDONALD'S FARM

Marty MacDonald needs your help! He's looking after his uncle's farm but Old MacDonald has left things in a mess - the animals have gone on holiday, the farmyard is topsy-turvy and the crafty crows are eating the crops in front of his eyes! 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

12 Apr 2014, 7:30pm

THE CHRISTIANS

Tickets for The Christians are priced £21 (includes £1 booking fee). 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

12 Apr 2014, 7:30pm

SILCHESTER PARISH CHURCH

BERKSHIRE BRASS IN

CONCERT WITH GUEST

PIANIST KEN HARRATT

"Varied programme of music for Brass (ten instruments), including

items by Rimsky-Korsakov, Musorgsky and Butterworth Tickets £10, to include glass of wine or soft drink.

Proceeds to organ restoration." 0118 970 0825, 0118 970 0633 or 0118 970 0450

12 Apr 2014, 7:30pm

ROTHERWICK VILLAGE HALL

BASINGSTOKE AND BAGSHOT CONCERT BANDS join together to mark the centenary of the First World War, in a concert. This performance will feature a whole new programme with the evening resounding to military music from history and patriotic anthems from the last 100 years. www.bcband.org.uk and www.bagshotband.org.uk or call 07503 881241

13 Apr 2014, 3pm - 5:30pm

AWE's, William Penney Theatre

AFTERNOON CONCERT "Enjoy an afternoon of 'Live' 'Light' Music spanning many decades. Big Band, Orchestral, Country, Latin, Film/Show Themes etc. etc. (The Electronic Organ, combined with Chris Powell's skill, creates them all!!!!) £ 6.50" Sylvia 01189 323 971

15 Apr 2014 - 16 Apr 2014

THE ANVIL

ERTH'S DINOSAUR ZOO

"Tuesday 11am and 2pm Wednesday 11am and 2pm Direct from Australia, Erth's Dinosaur Zoo brings awesome prehistoric creatures to the stage as you've never seen them before." 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

17 Apr 2014, 8pm

CENTRAL STUDIO QUEEN MARY'S COLLEGE

ALAN WILLIAMS ACOUSTICALLY YOURS

Alan Williams, the lead vocalist/guitarist of 70's glam rock icons 'The Rubettes' presents his solo tour where he will lead you through his musical life before, during and after the success years. 01256 418318 www.centralstudio.co.uk

18 Apr 2014, 8pm

THE ATTIC AT THE RAILWAY, WINCHESTER

MALCOLM HOLCOMBE

Tickets £10 www.railwaylive.co.uk

19 Apr 2014, 11am - 3pm

Elizabeth Hall, Raven Road, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9HH

DOLLY'S EASTER HAND-MADE AND VINTAGE FAIR

"Save the date for an Easter extravaganza! This is Easter Saturday get your best bonnet ready! Dolly's first trip to hook for a hand made and vintage fair. We have lots of unique and vintage stall holders booked and ready to dazzle you. We will post more details on Dolly's facebook and twitter. We are raising funds at this events for SANDS the stillbirth and neonatal charity <https://www.uk-sands.org> Website: www.hookvillagehalls.org.uk £1 for adults and children go free" www.dollysvintage.co.uk

19 Apr 2014, 11am - 3pm

THE ANVIL

Nabucco Verdi's haunting and melodic chorus of the Hebrew slaves follows the plight of the Hebrews as they are forced from their homeland into exile by the Babylonian King Nabucco. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

23 Apr 2014, 11am - 4pm

THE ANVIL

Basel Symphony Orchestra The concert gives a rare chance to hear a live performance of John Adam's spectacular Harmonielehre. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

30 Apr 2014, 8pm

THE ANVIL

FIFTY SHADES OF BEIGE

This jam-packed spanking new show includes learning the art of 'Grumpy Grooming', the joy of large pants, a free nagging master class (how to get your own way without him even noticing), beards for women, which style will suit you? Complimentary Anger Management

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- Farmyard Animals
- Easter Arts & Crafts
- NEW Under 3's Play Area
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- Human Rabbit Warren
- Tractor Tyre Mountain
- Adventure Play

Visit - www.manydownfamilyfun.co.uk for more details, call 01256 220 398 or

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Open daily 10am - 4pm

Manydown Family Fun, Scrapps Hill Farm, 550 Worting Road, Basingstoke RG23 8PU

Activities and events are weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

workshop, middle-aged drinking: the rules, navigating the smorgasbord of worry, voluntary euthanasia vs. retirement, how to customise an unwanted pole dancing kit and a mercifully brief Zumba demonstration. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

1 May 2014 - 3 May 2014

THE HAYMARKET

THE DEVIL AT MIDNIGHT

Spine-tingling psychological thriller. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

2 May 2014, 7:45pm

THE FORGE

PHILLIP HENRY AND HANNAH MARTIN

Phillip and Hannah are two musicians with a fast growing following; Phillip one of the UK's top slide guitarists and harmonica players; Hannah a singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist writing mainly on fiddle, viola and banjo. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

4 May 2014, 11am - 11:30pm

CAMROSE SOCIAL CLUB, WESTERN WAY BASINGSTOKE RG22 6EZ

STOKIE-FEST

"All day music event featuring "Hats off to Led Zeppelin" along with a fantastic and varied line up throughout the day. There will also be family fun, outside food and

drink stalls, kids' entertainment and prizes to be won throughout the day. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Stokie-Fest/365361226933789>

7 May 2014, 11am - 4pm

7 May 2014 - 10 May 2014

THE HAYMARKET

She Stoops To Conquer Charles Marlow, a well-bred young man from London, is beset with a stutter and a quiver when in the presence of elegant and educated young women. When his father sets him up with his old friend's eligible daughter, he is totally tongue tied - but Miss Hardcastle is charmed by her gibbering suitor and employs an unexpected tactic to put him at his ease. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

8 May 2014, 8pm

THE FORGE

MAMANE BARKA THE LONE

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Informal morning courses Children welcome - Lunch included CHICKEN HOUSES POINT OF LAY PULLETS CHICKEN EQUIPMENT & STARTER PACKS POULTRY FEED FERTILE EGGS IN SEASON www.chickenessentials.co.uk For more information & workshop dates or call for availability on

0777 5166 938

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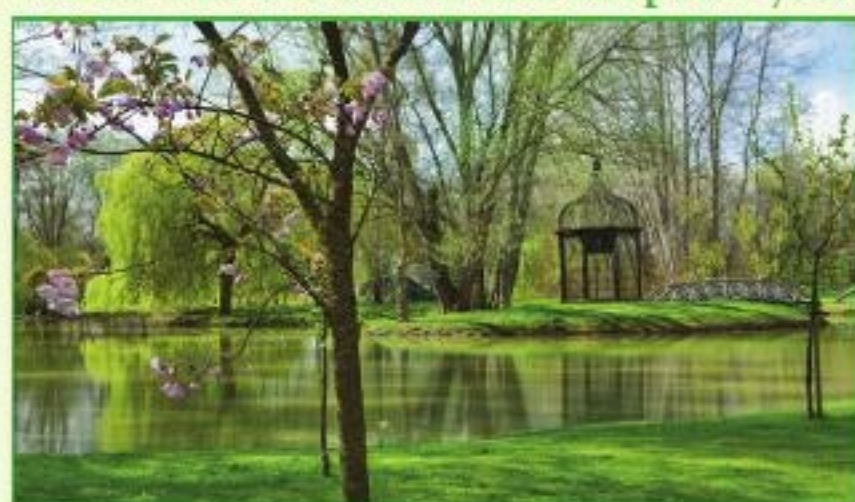
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W: www.westgreenhouse.co.uk



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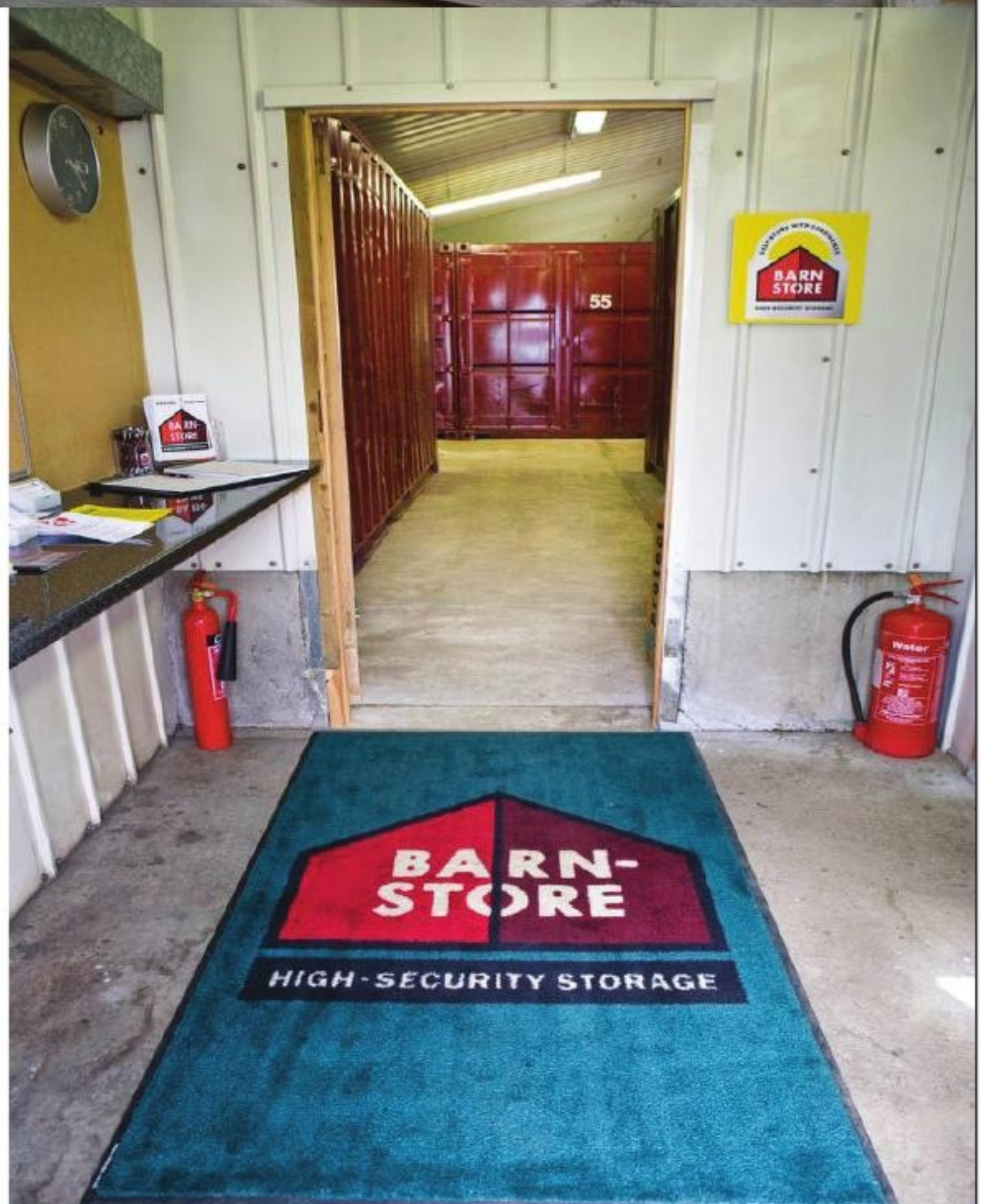
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MASTER OF THE BIRAM

A night in the company of Mamane Barka is a chance not just to experience a beautiful, forgotten music, but to hear the fascinating story of one man's mission to save a sacred harp and the rich musical traditions of the Boudouma nomads from extinction.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

8 May 2014, 7:45pm
The Anvil

CARNABY STREET - THE CONCERT

Featuring a six-piece band, led by an array of fantastic singers, the show is set against the backdrop of London's West End in the sixties - its iconic clubs, trendy fashions and eccentric characters; at a time full of hope and freedom; when the world was changing and anything seemed possible.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

10 May 2014 - 17 May 2014, 7pm - 10pm
Tadley Common Methodist Church

TADLEY YOUTH DRAMA PRODUCTION

"Come and watch a UK premier of To The Rescue set in America. Refreshments available and a warm welcome awaits. Tickets are £6 and £4 and available from local churches and Helping Hands Charity Shop in Tadley and also on the door.
www.tadleyyouthdrama.org.uk/
07443118432

10 May 2014, 1:30pm - 4pm
St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road (B3350), Earley Reading

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY PLANT SALE

*Admission 50p
Good quality flower and vegetable plants on sale.

Home-made cakes, tea and coffee available.
Free car-parking.
www.berkshirehps.org.uk 0118 9700522.

14 May 2014
Princes Hall Aldershot
OMID DJALILI LIVE

01252 329155

16 May 2014, 7:30pm
Alton Methodist Church
NIGEL OGDEN

from the BBC Radio 2 program "The Organist Entertains"

23 May 2014, 7pm - 12:30am
Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke
BLACK TIE CHARITY AUCTION

"Black tie charity auction raising money for the national autistic society, 3 course dinner, wine and disco. Items for auction range from sports memorabilia to local spa days, tickets are available at £25.00pp.
3run are the special guests running the auction."
7414915288

23 May 2014
Farnham Maltings
THE RUTLES

www.farnhammaltings.com

23 May 2014, 7pm - 12am
Red lion hotel Basingstoke

BLACK TIE CHARITY AUCTION

"Charity auction in aid of the National autistic society, special guest are 3run and Luke UPTON. Ticket prices £25.00 over 16 only. Price inc 3 course meal, auction, dining by Luke UPTON and disco."
07414915288

Saturday 12th April 7.30pm
Rotherwick Village Hall
BASINGSTOKE AND
BAGSHOT CONCERT BANDS
WILL JOIN TOGETHER TO
MARK THE CENTENARY OF
THE FIRST WORLD WAR.
www.bcband.org.uk & www.bag-shotband.org.uk



12 Jun 2014 - 14 Jun 2014
The Haymarket

LADIES IN RETIREMENT

"Directed by Ian Dickens and starring a fantastic cast with well-known actors from stage and screen, this taut, creepy melodrama, based on a famous murder which actually took place

at the end of the last century, has become one of the most successful and most frequently performed plays in the modern repertoire. Set in the 1880s, Ladies in Retirement guarantees an evening of Victorian thrills and suspense."
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

14 Jun 2014, 7pm - 11:30pm
Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke
PRINCE AND PRINCESS
CHARITY DISCO

"Charity disco to help raise money for local school Dove House. This is a family disco you will be meet and greet by a prince and princess."

Tickets are available at £10.00 per adult, children under 18 £5.00 and children with autism go free. There will be food of burgers, hotdogs, chips and salad and the disco will be autism friendly."
7414915288

Basingstoke
Observer

Reader Travel

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by air from London Heathrow Airport

Enjoy the glorious colours of the New England Fall, experience the stunning coastal scenery of Cape Cod, and discover fabulous Boston, a city of many contrasts with its rich Colonial past and distinctly European feel, on these great value, fully escorted holidays with 2 fantastic options...

Option One

8 - 18 October 2014

Visiting Boston, Cape Cod, Newport (Rhode Island), the battlefields of Lexington, Salem - the 'Witch Capital of the World', the coast of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, (including Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory, Cold Hollow Cider Mill and Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks), Stowe and Lake Champlain (including a cruise on the Spirit of Ethan Allen III).

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return flight from London Heathrow airport to Boston¹
- 4 nights stay at the Best Western Royal Plaza hotel, Marlborough with breakfast
- 2 nights stay at the Ogunquit River Plantation hotel, Maine with breakfast
- 3 nights stay at the Holiday Inn Rutland, Vermont with breakfast

¹We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these flights be above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27/12/13 and is based upon departure from Heathrow airport on 8/10/14.

by Air, from
£1499pp

Option Two

25 September - 5 October 2014 and 9 - 19 October 2014

Visiting Cape Cod, the Island of Martha's Vineyard, the Pilgrim town of Plymouth (and the Plimoth Plantation), Boston, the battlefields of Lexington, Salem, Newport (Rhode Island), New Hampshire, Vermont and Stowe.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return flight from London Heathrow airport to Boston¹
- 3 nights stay at the Resort and Conference Center, Hyannis with breakfast
- 4 nights stay at the Best Western Royal Plaza hotel, Marlborough with breakfast
- 2 nights stay at the Holiday Inn Rutland, Vermont with breakfast

¹We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these flights be above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27/12/13 and is based upon departure from Heathrow airport on 25/9/14.

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SAT 8.45-15.30
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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

		4	5			8	2	
	2		9	3		4		5
1	7		8					
		3			8		6	4
7			2		6			9
4	8		7			1		
					9		3	6
3		2		1	5		7	
	6	9			2	5		

			1	9				3
	1	7	5			8		
	3	8				9		
					5		8	
8	7						4	9
	2		9					
		9				1	5	
		2			9	4	7	
6				1	3			

6				1			4	
9	4				8	1		
		7				2		3
	7	4	5					
					4	3	8	
7		2				9		
		8	2				1	7
	3			5				6

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

- 1 Army division (8)
- 4 Hurried (4)
- 8 Glance leisurely (6)
- 10 Massacre (6)
- 11 Attempts (5)
- 12 Different (5)
- 14 Finishes (6)
- 17 Era of outstanding men (6,3)
- 18 Pierce (9)
- 22 Island of the East Indies (6)
- 23 Perfect (5)
- 24 Extra large (5)
- 26 Drives back (6)
- 27 Female relative (6)
- 28 Dirt (4)
- 29 Ulcerated (8)

Quick Clues Down

- 1 Steals (4)
- 2 Development (6)
- 3 Overcome (6)
- 5 Group of words (6)
- 6 Tame (8)
- 7 Book of the Old Testament (5)
- 9 Mistaken (9)
- 10 South American pigs (9)
- 13 Wife of Menelaus (5)
- 15 Semi-precious stone (5)
- 16 Cluttered up (8)
- 18 Investigates (6)
- 19 Breeding places (5)
- 20 Floating without direction (6)
- 21 Christian festival (6)
- 25 Poke (4)

Cryptic Clues Across

- 1 Undressed, so hurried about the journey (8)
- 4 Part of Burma, Siam and more (4)
- 8 Eastern Europe elegance? (6)
- 10 Sounds as if the enemy intended to incite rebellion (6)
- 11 Act it wrong - it's not spoken aloud (5)
- 12 Discount illusions, up to the time when hidden (5)
- 14 Was the giraffe designed for love-play? (6)
- 17 Sporting dances that should go with a swing? (4,5)
- 18 Raging of the elements? (6,3)
- 22 Pet's out of bed - what a sauce! (6)
- 23 Shirked less quietly - that was annoying (5)
- 24 Ruby, for example, whose throw is not far (5)
- 26 Number nearly needing water (6)
- 27 Making no mess - dwarfs are hiding there (6)
- 28 Reversible action (4)
- 29 Takes shelter after return of war with untanned skins (8)

Cryptic Clues Down

- 1 Slips and loses fifty drinks (4)
- 2 Deciding to draw the line (6)
- 3 Part of a flower I split in pieces (6)
- 5 Pieces of meat used in gambling, we hear (6)
- 6 Remedy for love-sickness? (8)
- 7 Where one is accommodated inside a shot elephant (5)
- 9 Pessimist's view of a pint in a quart pot? (4-5)
- 10 Supplying money - can broken in imposing penalty (9)
- 13 They are wrong in law, but right in little children (5)
- 15 What Chinese frogs do? Hide (5)
- 16 Pate clad absurdly - pacified (8)
- 18 Wear at wear out (6)
- 19 Forces out, found in what Proust said (5)
- 20 Sudden twist - wench is about right (6)
- 21 Dreamed of losing head, enlarged the bore (6)
- 25 Requests casks, less a hundred (4)

1		2		3					4	5		6
								7				
8				9			10					
				11								
	12		13					14		15		
16		17										
		18		19					20		21	
22												
				24								25
26								27				
28						29						

Scribble space

Last week's solutions

4	1	7	5	2	6	3	9	8
5	3	8	4	7	9	6	1	2
2	9	6	1	3	8	7	4	5
8	4	1	9	6	5	2	3	7
7	5	3	2	8	1	9	6	4
6	2	9	7	4	3	8	5	1
1	6	5	8	9	7	4	2	3
9	7	4	3	5	2	1	8	6
3	8	2	6	1	4	5	7	9

4	5	7	3	6	8	2	9	1
8	1	9	5	2	7	3	4	6
6	2	3	9	1	4	8	5	7
9	7	2	6	8	3	5	1	4
1	4	5	2	7	9	6	8	3
3	6	8	1	4	5	9	7	2
7	3	4	8	9	2	1	6	5
5	9	6	4	3	1	7	2	8
2	8	1	7	5	6	4	3	9

5	3	8	4	6	9	1	7	2
6	1	2	8	7	5	9	3	4
7	9	4	3	2	1	6	5	8
9	6	5	2	3	4	7	8	1
2	7	1	5	8	6	3	4	9
4	8	3	1	9	7	2	6	5
3	2	7	9	5	8	4	1	6
1	5	9	6	4	3	8	2	7
8	4	6	7	1	2	5	9	3

Quick Crossword

Across: 4 Ruffle 8 Fernule 9 Unsafe 10 Donations
11 Gage 13 Plait 14 Misused 16 Utility 18 Prate 19 Nero
21 Fortunate 22 Assail 23 Develop 24 Easier
Down: 1 Decollete 2 Armadillo 3 Slain 5 Urns 6 Fracas
7 Evened 9 Until 11 Gun runner 12 Gestation 15 Stool
16 Unmade 17 Irises 20 Steed 21 Fine

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 4 Divers 8 Contact 9 Cleric 10 Stevedore 11
Wine 13 Props 14 Paragon 16 Couples 18 Wrote 19 Erme
21 Tormented 22 Lotion 23 Repeats 24 Rodent
Down: 1 Posterior 2 Stove-pipe 3 Acids 5 Idle 6 Earwig
7 Sicken 9 Cream 11 Warranted 12 Northerly 15 Felon
16 Cellar 17 United 20 Ember 21 Town



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Poundland

Amazing Spring Value

Exclusive bakeware & quality gardening giving you more for your pound!
Save £'s on your next shop! See voucher for details.

There is only one price to remember at your local Poundland, that's why it's the UK's leading discount store. There's lots in store for all the family this Spring, from Jane Asher's exclusive new bakeware range, to blooming marvellous bulbs and gardening gear. There's also a cracking choice of Easter eggs and gifting, everyday essentials from groceries to health and beauty and plenty of ideas to keep the kids entertained during the Easter holidays, so pop in to see what you can find today!



Have your cake and bake it for less with Jane Asher's exclusive new bakeware range

If you've been inspired by The Great British Bake Off, Poundland has everything you need to get baking as it launches its stunning range from top cook and actress Jane Asher. From those looking to bake their first Victoria Sponge, to kids looking to learn, to regular bakers looking to add more kit to their collection, Jane has got it covered for you. It has taken 16 months of designing and testing scores of prototypes at home before whittling them down to her top 50 which will be on sale at your local store.

The high quality £1-a-piece range of ceramic bowls, mini scales, spatulas, whisks, cake tins, trendy pop cake kits and silicone cake cases, come in Jane's trademark pastel colours – mint, lilac, pale blue and pink. The larger items include a recipe and there are baking tips on the smaller ones to add a personal touch. "I'm really delighted with the final result," Jane said.

You can buy all the tools you need to get started for under £10. So everyone can afford to feel inspired to bake something delicious; who knows? Next stop, the Great British Bake Off via a trip to Poundland.



Everything you need to get sowing and growing

April's the time to start thinking about what to plant in your garden. Beautiful Garden's Dutch iris bulbs are blooming amazing value at just £1 for 25 and they're in store now.



Supplied by M.Thoolen, a family firm from Holland and stamped with Holland's Flower Bulbs Quality Mark, guarantees they are top notch.

And there's even more for you green fingered types, check out the range of seeds, hand tools, gloves, spray bottles, to must haves like compost, lawn feed, bone meal and weed killer all for £1 each!

Top gardening tips for April

- Plant bulbs in pots for a great patio display
- Sow wildflower mixtures to attract bees and butterflies
- Herbs like chives, coriander and parsley can be sown directly into the ground
- Use a hoe to keep weeds under control
- Repair bare grass patches with lawn feed
- Wear gloves to protect your hands

Chineham Centre, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 8BQ.
www.poundland.co.uk

All products are subject to availability.

Meet Jane at our funday!

To launch her new bakeware range, Jane will be visiting Poundland at Chineham Centre, Basingstoke, Hampshire on Wednesday 16th April from 2pm. Why not keep the kids entertained by bringing them along? There will be a DJ entertaining the crowd with voucher giveaways and your chance to meet Jane. Come and celebrate the launch of the new Jane Asher range only at Poundland!



£3 OFF
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Please bring this coupon with you.



TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1. You are advised to read and understand these terms and conditions. 2. The voucher is valid from Thursday 10th April to Thursday 17th April 2014 inclusive. 3. Purchase necessary. This voucher entitles the holder to £3 off when they spend £13 or more in a single transaction at our Chineham store. 4. Only one voucher may be redeemed per transaction. Voucher may not be redeemed after purchase. 5. Voucher may not be used in conjunction with any other voucher, offer or discount. 6. Amended, damaged, photocopied or defaced vouchers will not be accepted. 7. Voucher can only be redeemed at the Poundland store at 2 Chineham Centre, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 8BQ. Goods remain subject to availability. 8. Excludes the purchase of Health Lottery tickets and carrier bags. 9. Voucher may not be redeemed online. 10. Exchange or sale of this voucher is prohibited. 11. This voucher remains the property of Poundland and is not for re-sale or publication. The voucher has no cash value, is non-refundable and is non-exchangeable. 12. Poundland accepts no responsibility for lost or damaged vouchers and reserves the right to modify or terminate the promotion for circumstances beyond its control. Store use code: 000173.

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WIN Extreme Stunt Show Tickets..!

WHETHER you're a fan of monster trucks, motorbikes, BMX or just general mayhem, the Extreme Stunt Show Live Arena at Old Common London Road RG21 4BY is the place to be and the date to be there is Wednesday April 23rd.

Check out the monster action where the trucks Extreme and Lil' Devil compete to prove they're the best car crushing monsters in Europe. 2013 was a very busy year for them. Performing at over 150 shows during the summer meant they were in need of some long overdue TLC. The Extreme workshop has been busy over the winter making sure the trucks are ready to keep up with the grueling workout the drivers are going to put them through. Both still pulling 1500 horsepower and car-crushing to the max, these machines are primed and ready for action.

Next up, the Extreme FMX lads who love to tear it up with their death defying stunts including the can can, cliffhanger, lazy boy, kiss of death, nac nac, and superman to name a few.

Prepare to be astounded as the

Closing date:

Friday, April 18, 2014

Extreme BMX team, show you how it's done with excessive pedal power. Check out their bunny hops, barspins, 360s, tailwhips, flairs and of course the backflip.

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Advance booking tickets are available at discount from info@extremeeventseurope.com or on the ticket hotline: 0844 771000

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Diano Marina & the Riviera of Flowers



Saturday departures, 7 June and 6 September 2014

From Gatwick airport

Imagine a backdrop of hills clad in olive groves and pine, lemon and orange trees leading down to picturesque coves, splendid beaches, and the hinterland blazing with the exotic flowering blooms from which the Italian Riviera of Flowers gets its name... savour delightful Diano Marina on this great-value holiday with a quality hotel and two fully-escorted excursions.

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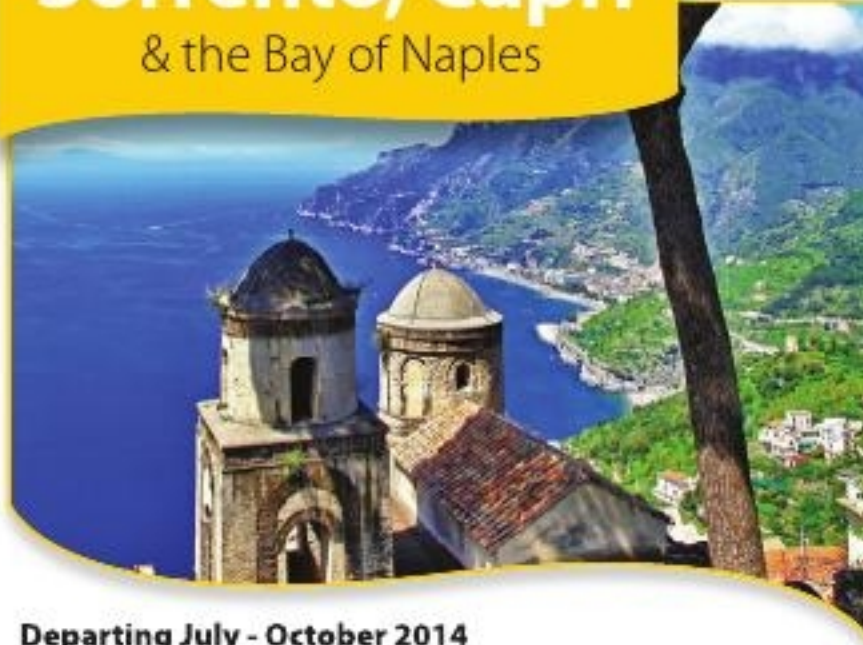
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Nice†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Piccolo Diano Marina with dinner & breakfast
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Sorrento, Capri & the Bay of Naples



Departing July - October 2014

From Gatwick airport

This is a dream of a break among the cliffs, lemon-orchards, olive-groves and turquoise waters of Italy's favourite bay. We invite you to discover the beautiful medieval city of Sorrento, which overlooks the magical waters of the Bay of Naples, allowing panoramic views of the city of Naples, the lovely islands of Capri and Ischia, and the awe-inspiring Mount Vesuvius.

Price includes:

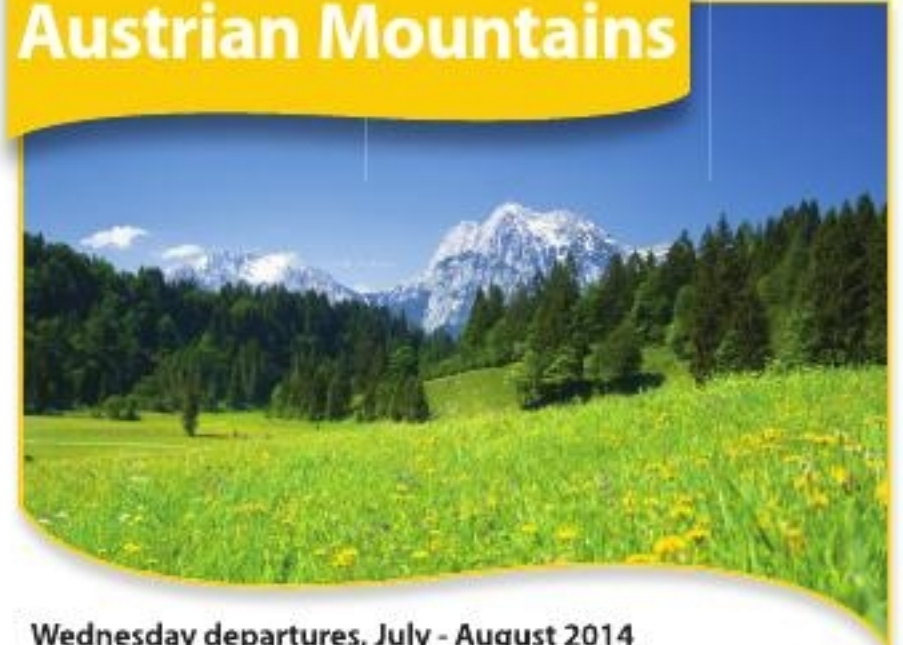
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Naples†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 4 star Hotel Delle Palme, Sant'Agata sui due Golfi with 3 course evening meal and breakfast
- Three full-day escorted excursions; to the Island of Capri, to Pompeii & Vesuvius, and the Amalfi Drive

Includes
Escorted Excursions

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Summer in the Austrian Mountains



Wednesday departures, July - August 2014

From Gatwick airport

Mountain pine air you could bottle and sell, glacier fresh beer, scented meadows, a history of music and mad kings, houses painted as optical illusions – discover alpine Austria with this Omega 8 day break including flights, 4 star hotel, dinner, breakfast and full day excursions.

Price includes:

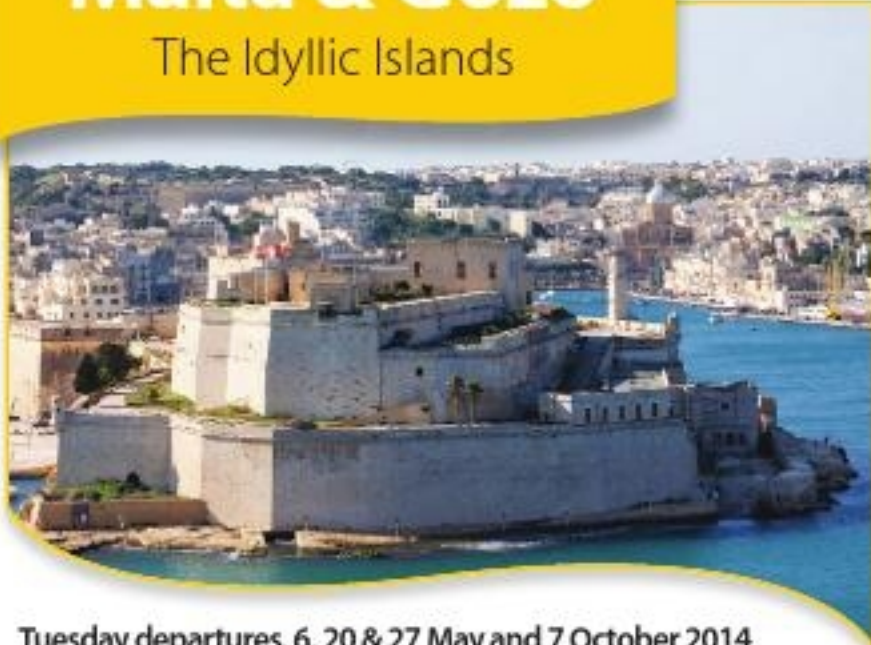
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Basel†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from Basel airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 4 star Sport Hotel, St Anton am Arlberg with breakfast and evening meal
- Full day excursion to Oberammergau
- Full day excursion to Lake Constance and Lindau (inc boat trip)
- Half day on scenic high mountain Silvretta highway visiting Schruns and Ischgl

Includes
Escorted Excursions

8 days by AIR, from
£659pp

Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 16/7/14

Malta & Gozo The Idyllic Islands



Tuesday departures, 6, 20 & 27 May and 7 October 2014

From Gatwick airport

Set in the heart of the Mediterranean, the idyllic island of Malta has been described as one big open-air museum, with so much of its past being visible today including ancient temples and palaces, the world's oldest surviving free standing stone structures and red telephone boxes! A cultural gem bursting with a rich, diverse heritage, stunning scenery, great cuisine and an endearing charm.

Price includes:

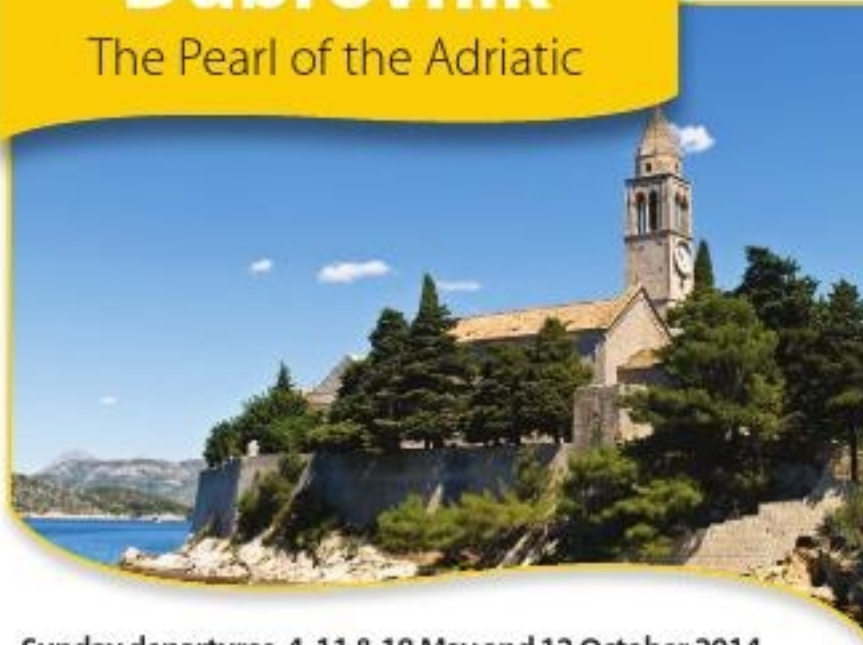
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Includes
Escorted Excursions

8 days by AIR, from
£749pp

Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 6/5/14

Dubrovnik The Pearl of the Adriatic



Sunday departures, 4, 11 & 18 May and 12 October 2014

From Gatwick airport

The magnificent old walled city of Dubrovnik is steeped in historical, architectural and artistic treasures boasting spectacular Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque churches, monasteries, palaces and fountains. Set against a backdrop of wooded hillsides and with stunning views of the Dalmatian coastline, it is easy to see why George Bernard Shaw thought idyllic Dubrovnik was quite simply "Paradise on Earth".

Price includes:

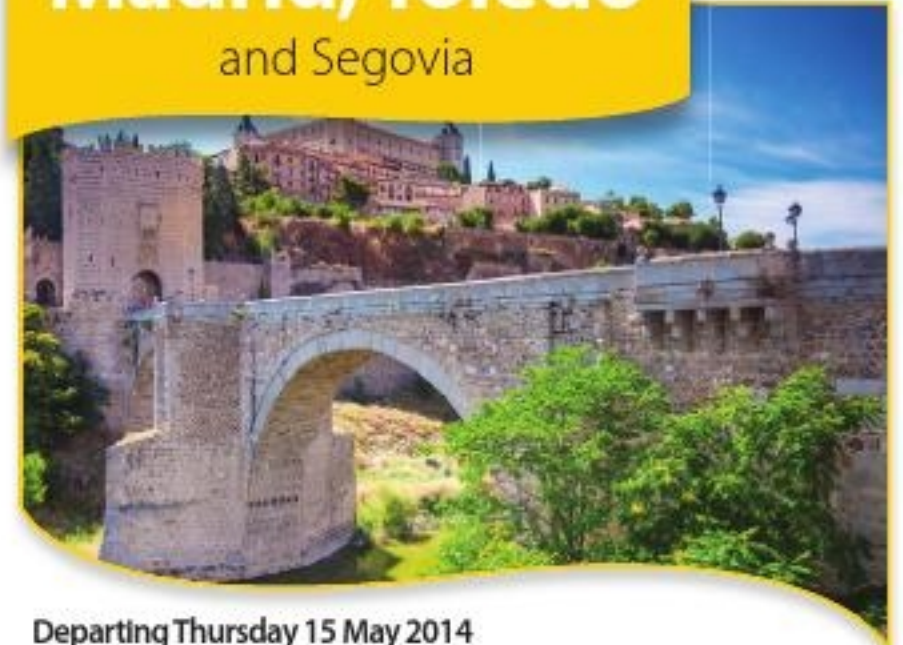
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Dubrovnik†
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Includes
Escorted Excursions

8 days by AIR, from
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Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 11/5/14

Madrid, Toledo and Segovia



Departing Thursday 15 May 2014

From Gatwick airport

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Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Madrid†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 5 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Ganivet, Madrid, with breakfast
- Three buffet dinners
- Included panoramic coach tour and a guided walking tour of the historical centre of Madrid
- Included excursions to Toledo and Segovia
- Free time in Madrid

Includes
Escorted Excursions

6 days by AIR, from
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Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 15/5/14

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Martons



Berkshire & North Hampshire

April

Tuesday 15th April

The Cotswolds in Spring and Moreton-in-Marsh Market £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 17th April

Marwell Wildlife Park or shopping in Fareham £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

May

Saturday 3rd May

Lymington Market and the New Forest £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 17th May

Weymouth

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

Saturday 31st May

The Thames Traveller £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

June

Tuesday 3rd June

Brighton £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 5th June

Bournemouth £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Sunday 15th June

Swansea and the 21st Festival of Transport on Father's Day

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £22.50 - Child £15.00

Saturday 28th June

Sanders Garden World & Burnham-on-Sea

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

July

Saturday 12th July

Aylesbury and The Vale, The Dunstable Downs and The Great Train Robbery £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Sunday 27th July

Bognor or Butlins £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 29th July

Cutty Sark and Greenwich Park

£ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 31st July

Oxford or Blenheim Palace £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

August

Saturday 2nd August

The Kentish Klipper - Sevenoaks and Royal Tunbridge Wells

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

Tuesday 5th August

Gosport Market & Lee-on-the-Solent

£ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 7th August

Mystery Seaside Excursion £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 12th August

Stewarts Garden Centre and Christchurch

£ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 14th August

Hampton Court Palace or Kingston-upon-Thames £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 16th August

Eastbourne including Air Show

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

Tuesday 19th August

Portsmouth World War One Commemorative Event or Southsea £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 21st August

Corfe Castle and Swanage £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Wednesday 27th August

Ringwood Market and Romsey £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Sunday 31st August

Bournemouth including Air Show

£ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

September

Saturday 13th September

The Fosse Way Flyer

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £22.50 - Child £15.00

Saturday 27th September

Wimborne Market and Poole Quay

£ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

October

Saturday 11th October

Warwick Castle and Stratford-upon-Avon

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £15.00

Saturday 25th October

Lymington and New Forest Drive

£ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 28th October

Mystery Tour £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 30th October

Notcutts Garden Centre and Guildford

£ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

November

Saturday 8th November

Westfield Christmas Shopping £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 22nd November

Christmas in London (including Winter Wonderland - Hyde Park) £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 29th November

Bath Christmas Market

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

December

Saturday 6th December

Brugge Christmas Market

Please remember your passport! (Price includes return Eurotunnel crossings)

Route 'X' - £42.50 per person - (no child reduction)

Sunday 14th December

London Christmas Shopping and Lights

£ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'B' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

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Fiat's retro rag-top city car gets 'sporty'

FIAT'S re-interpretation of its iconic 1960s 500 model met huge acclaim when it launched in 2007. The 500C, launched in 2009, shares the chic retro looks of the hatch, but features a full length electrically retractable fabric roof.

The design is faithful to the rear-engined 1950s original, in that it retains the roof pillars and although not a true convertible, it's hard not to be impressed by this clever compromise.

FACTS at a glance

FIAT 500S CONVERTIBLE 0.8 TWINAIR 85HP

OTR PRICE: £15,760

Max Power: 84 bhp @5500 rpm

Max Torque: 145Nm @ 1900 rpm

Max Speed: 107mph

Acceleration: 0-62 in 11.0 seconds

Claimed MPG (combined) 70.6

CO2 emissions: (g/km) 95

Insurance Group 10

REVIEW: Fiat 500S Convertible

By Philip Shoulder

@writeonmotoring

This sportier 'S' trim is denoted by larger 16 inch alloy wheels, satin chrome trim along with the body coloured side skirts and spoiler. Inside there's a skilful blend of retro looks and modern functionality, with a sporty twist thanks to the chunky flat-bottomed steering wheel, red gear knob and embroidered logos on the bolstered sports seats.

Otherwise it's the usual 500 fair: key focal points being the large main dial, incorporating speedometer, rev counter, fuel, and temperature gauges. Heater and stereo controls are positioned high on the dash, within easy reach of the driver.

A good driving position is combined with comfortable supportive seats. Cabin is cosy but not cramped and there's enough headroom for six-footers front and rear. At 185 litres seats up and 520 litres seats down, the boot is well off class best and the aperture is a bit restricted.

Out of all the Fiat 500 engine options (a 68 bhp 1.2 litre and 94 bhp 1.3 litre diesel), this 0.9 litre two-cylinder TwinAir is without doubt the most intriguing. A



combination of turbo charging, dedicated valve management and high combustion achieved from Fiat's MultiAir technology, means the diminutive 875cc engine pumps out a healthy 84 bhp at 5500 rpm and 145Nm at 2000rpm, to the tune of a distinctive off-beat thrum, which seems to really suit the car's cheeky character.

It certainly feels brisk, despite the modest performance figures (0-62 mph in 11 seconds and 107 mph top speed). And it has incredibly low CO2 emissions of just 95g/km, along with 70.6

mpg fuel economy (combined cycle), although expect real-world figures to be nearer the 45 mpg mark.

The 500S strikes an appealing balance of sportiness and comfort; bigger wheels, slightly firmer suspension and chunkier steering wheel all add up to make this 500 more engaging on a twisty B-road, but there isn't the crashy brittleness that afflicts the more hardcore Abarth variants.

For such a small car refinement levels are good at lower speeds, although some external noise does seep in

through the soft-top. At the flick of a switch (up to speeds of 37mph) the 500S Convertible goes from city car to drop-top, adding another dimension of motoring pleasure, although some practicality and rear vision is lost.

Verdict:

Although not without its flaws, the 500S Convertible has personality and desirability in spades; as well it should for nearly £16,000. Where it scores is offering the duality of city car motoring, with the fun factor of a small convertible.



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6.9% APR representative	



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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Renault Clio Dynamique MedianeNav 1.2 16V 75 and Renault Captur Dynamique MedianeNav TCe 90 S&S shown are: Urban 40.4 (7)–47 (6); Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7)–64.02 (4.4); Combined 51.4 (5.5)–56.49 (5). The official CO₂ emissions are 127–115g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO₂ may vary with driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

*Terms and exclusions apply. 4+ package available to non-business customers on new Renault vehicles. Warranty 4 years/100,000 miles and routine servicing 4 years/48,000 miles (whichever comes first). Servicing package available to Renault Selections customers only; alternatively can be purchased for just £299 (price shown valid when purchased by 31 July 2014). Visit renault.co.uk/4plus for full details. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Limited, PO Box 349, Watford WD17 1FJ. Subject to status. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Isle of Man and Channel Islands). Offer based on 6000 miles pa, excess mileage 5p per mile inc VAT. Terms and conditions apply.

*£1000 deposit contribution is available to new Renault Finance customers when taking Renault Finance on a new Renault Clio or Captur (excluding Clio Expression+ and Renaultsport). Offers cannot be used with other schemes or finance offers and are available on specified new vehicles when ordered by 30 June 2014. Clio shown has optional metallic paint, available at an additional £295. Captur shown has optional i.e. metallic paint at £495 and painted roof at £300.



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He added: At Fastfit we offer hourly rates which are some of the best in Basingstoke. No job is beyond us and we are quite simply a one-stop shop and more besides. Whether it's an entire engine overhaul or just tweaking the brakes, we will do it, and do it well."

The business is continually expanding and includes a new mobile tyre fitting and home start service. A comprehensive diagnostic service can also be provided and the business issues many dealer level tools ranging

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Fastfit offers everything from MOTs and minor servicing to major repairs and complex engine work.

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What our customers think

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Cheers,
Clive Baldwin

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Chris H
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Bison celebrate best ever season after play-off win

Rose hopes for major success

NORTH Hampshire golfer and world number eight Justin Rose begins his first round at the Masters this evening.

Rose will play alongside Phil Mickelson and Ernie Els in the first two rounds as he hopes for a second major win to follow up his US Open success at Merion Golf Club, Pennsylvania, in June last year.

He has made five appearances so far this year, his best result being tied for eighth place at last month's Valspar Championship at Florida's Innisbrook Resort.

Rose was one of six players to finish on two under par on March 16, five shots behind Australian John Senden.

At his last tournament, the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill from March 20-23, Rose missed the cut after posting rounds of 71 and 79 to end six over par.

Rose's best result at the Masters came in 2007 when he finished in tied fifth on four over par, having been leading after the first round.

Last year Rose ended the weekend in a tie for 25th alongside other major champions including Rory McIlroy, Jim Furyk and Charl Schwartzel on two over par, 11 shots behind tournament winner and current world number two Adam Scott.

BASINGSTOKE Bison were crowned as the 2014 English Ice Hockey Premier League champions in Coventry on Sunday, following a 5-3 win against Manchester Phoenix.

Bison had beaten Guildford Flames 5-2 on Saturday to make the final thanks to goals from Tomas Karpov, Nicky Chinn, Miroslav Vantroba, Joe Rand and Joe Greener.

The first period of Sunday's match saw a combined 19 shots from the two teams, but the game remained goalless going

By Adam Flinn
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

into the break.

It was Phoenix who broke the deadlock through Robin Kovar, who tapped in on a powerplay at 28:47.

Ciaran Long equalised for Bison just half a minute later, and the Herd were soon ahead as Joe Rand scored a penalty shot at 31:36.

Bison went into the final

period in the lead, but Phoenix were once again level as James Archer converted on a powerplay at 42:30, assisted by Frantisek Bakrik and Tony Hand.

Joe Baird put the Herd ahead once again as his shot sailed through a crowd of players to beat Phoenix netminder Steve Fone at the far post.

Player-manager Doug Sheppard then fed Karpov as he blasted the puck over Fone's glove with 10 minutes remaining to give Bison a two-goal advantage.

Phoenix were able to pull a goal back at 56:49 to make for a nervy ending, and they threw everything they had at Sheppard's men to try and find an elusive equaliser.

But it was to no avail, and Aaron Connolly was able to grab an empty net goal in the dying seconds to give Bison a 5-3 win, and complete the EPL cup and playoff double.

The win capped Bison's best ever season in the EPL, after they finished second in the league last month.



• Bison celebrate their play-off win last Sunday (Picture by Grant King (5holephotography.co.uk))

Sport Bites

'Stoke in danger of going down

BASINGSTOKE RFC have just one game remaining to try and stay in the National League 3 London and South East, after slipping into the relegation zone last Saturday.

'Stoke lost 41-32 away to Tonbridge Juddians, despite Ryan Davis, David Byett and Jobi Kockanowski scoring tries for the visitors.

The result was even more disappointing for 'Stoke as relegation rivals Barnes were able to move three points ahead as they beat Guernsey 31-22.

'Stoke's final league game of the season takes place at home to third-placed East Grinstead on Saturday, in what is a must-win game for Basingstoke if they want to avoid relegation.

Their fate will also depend on the outcome of Barnes' final match, as they take on 10th-placed Westcombe Park at the weekend.

Late goals give New Inn the cup

THE Basingstoke A Cup Final was decided last Thursday evening, as New Inn overcame Tadley Calleva A by winning 2-0 after extra time.

It took until the 20th minute of extra time for the deadlock to be broken.

New Inn captain Richard Kalwarzck smashed a shot into the top corner, with Matt Bennett adding a second in the dying moments of the match.

Both teams had numerous chances during the tie, but it was the higher-ranked New Inn who eventually came out on top.

Wintney and Calleva on top form while Whitchurch struggle

HARTLEY Wintney returned to winning ways in the Combined Counties Premier league on Tuesday night, with a 2-1 away win at Hanworth Villa.

Tuesday's win came after a

3-2 defeat at Frimley Green last Thursday and Saturday's 2-1 loss versus Wembley.

Wintney are now seventh in the league with eight games remaining, and are back in action this

weekend away to Badshot Lea.

Elsewhere, Whitchurch United's poor Wessex Premier League form continued as they were beaten 4-1 at home to Bournemouth Poppies at the

weekend.

The Jam Boys are now 10th in the league standings with 52 points, and have lost ground on the leaders in recent weeks.

But Tadley Calleva's winning

run continued on Saturday, as they enjoyed a 3-0 win at home to Team Solent in the Wessex First Division.

Calleva are up to sixth in the table, and were in action away

to Amesbury Town last night as the Observer went to press.

Whitchurch next play Monseyfields tonight, while Calleva host East Cowes Victoria on Saturday.



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Inside: Bison celebrate best ever season after play-off win | Late goals give New Inn the cup | Rose hopes for major success

BRISTOW URGES TOWN REACTION

Winless run extends to three games after Chelmsford snatch late victory

MANAGER Jason Bristow is calling on his players to restore some pride after Basingstoke Town suffered a last gasp 3-2 defeat at home to Chelmsford City on Tuesday night.

Michael Cheek's stoppage time effort condemned the Dragons to their seventh home defeat of the season, extending their winless run to three games.

A Christian Smith own goal had given Town the lead on 10 minutes, but the midfielder soon made amends by converting from the spot for 1-1.

Liam Enver-Marum restored Basingstoke's lead before Cheek's late brace handed the visitors victory.

The Dragons are currently 14th in the Skril South table, eight points above the relegation zone and 11 adrift of the play-offs.

Bristow is now calling for a reaction, despite the daunting task of playing their six remaining league games in the space of 14 days.

"We've got to restore a bit of pride in our last few performances," he said.

"We've got to show people that we really want to be here and play for this football club, it's important that we do that."

"Every team has got a lot of games to play, but we look

By Jack Johnson

news@basingsstokeobserver.co.uk

tired.

"Mentally we're tired as well but we have got to get through that."

"There is still a very busy few weeks to go and we have got to find something within ourselves to come through it with a good amount of points."

Bristow admitted that with such a tight schedule over the next fortnight, it will be difficult to train twice a week.

"We play Saturday, Tuesday, then Friday, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday so it is very difficult to get sessions in," he said.

"You've got to think about the players and their recovery time and it's difficult to work on things in between games."

"Everyone is in the same boat and it is those that are coping with it the best that are getting the most success."

Basingstoke welcome Bishops Stortford to the Camrose this Saturday but will be without defender David Ray, who will miss the rest of the season with an achilles injury, while midfielder Simon Dunn is out.



Basingstoke Town 2
Chelmsford City 3

• Manny Williams tries to get a shot away during Basingstoke's 3-2 defeat at home to Chelmsford (Picture by Les Chase)

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